

**To:** U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

**From:** John Fouts

**Subject:** Urgent Firmware-Level Threat Submission - Evidence of Anomalous ELF Behavior in csd-printer Binary

**Date:** May 25, 2025

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## **Summary of Submission:**

This submission presents critical evidence obtained through **binary reverse engineering** of a suspicious ELF file named `csd-printer`, conducted using **Ghidra**. Screenshots enclosed in the attached ZIP archive expose function-level anomalies consistent with firmware-level compromise, malicious persistence, and impersonation of trusted Linux system services.

As a civilian without agency credentials, I have **not been granted full access to CISA's Malware Next Gen portal**, and received a denial message when attempting to upload through standard channels. Despite this, the threat is significant and demands urgent review by federal security personnel with relevant clearance.

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## **Technical Highlights (See Screenshots):**

- **Anomalous Entry Point (entry)**
  - Infinite loop (`while(true)`), no logic execution, obfuscation signature
  - See: Screenshot from 2025-05-25 12:54:45.png
- **Malicious D-Bus Registration and Impersonation**
  - `FUN_00102a90`, `FUN_00104a80`, and `FUN_00104bb0` bind to `.printer` and `settings-daemon` services
  - `g_dbus_own_name()` and `g_dbus_proxy_call_sync()` indicate service hijack
  - See: Screenshots from 12:55:13, 12:55:22, and 12:56:07
- **Use of Stack Canary Bypass & Obfuscation**
  - Multiple `__stack_chk_fail()` calls buried in unreachable branches
  - Common evasion technique and seen in `FUN_001049e0`, `00104a80`, `00104bb0`, `001035e0`
  - See: Screenshots from 12:55:05, 12:55:18, 12:56:20, 12:56:25

- **Fake Printer Driver & Red Hat Configuration Injection**
  - Multiple hardcoded paths: /com/redhat/PrinterDriversInstall, cinnamon-settings-daemon
  - Function pointers suggest impersonation of Red Hat & Fedora trust anchors
  - See: Screenshots from 12:55:22, 12:56:38, 12:56:29
- **Empty and Decoy Functions**
  - Stubs with no logic (likely placeholders or obfuscation layers)
  - FUN\_00102fe0, FUN\_00104930, FUN\_00102f20, etc.
  - See: Screenshots from 12:55:47, 12:55:31, 12:56:57

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## **Evidence Archive:**

Attached ZIP:

**2025-05-25-CISA-ghidra-csd-printer-binary-malware-screenshot-collection-functions-showing-anomalous-behavior-malicious-request-priority-review.zip**

Contains 18 high-resolution screenshots with full timestamps, each illustrating anomalous or malicious execution patterns observed in the disassembled binary.

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## **Action Requested:**

- Please **escalate to Malware Next Gen** or equivalent CISA division capable of evaluating UEFI/firmware-level compromise involving forged system services.
- Confirm **civilian submission receipt** for supplemental CISA case reference **#CCASE0092x**.
- Advise if sanitized submission is required via alternate channel.

This sample represents only **one component** of a broader, active firmware intrusion affecting health-critical infrastructure and devices. Further samples can be provided upon secure request.

Respectfully submitted,

**John R. Fouts, MBA**

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JusticeForJohn

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